London Features Its Men at Work

LONDON (CP)—Sidewalk superintendents never had it so good.

In busy Oxford Street which runs through central London is a gaily colored platform with railings, painted sandbins for cigaret butts, a litter box, window boxes with plants and flowers and tubs with shrubs.

Passers-by who drop in to have a look at the men at work on the new building site have a roof over their heads to protect them from the rain. There is neon strip lighting as well as flood lights for night viewing. A notice board explains what is going on and there is even a forecast of the next day's weather.

This platform is the fanciest of a number in central London. A spokesman for the contractors says: "There's no doubt that the public like to look at other men working. So our chairman, Frank Taylor, decided to accept the inevitable and provide proper facilities for them so that they can look on in comfort and safety."

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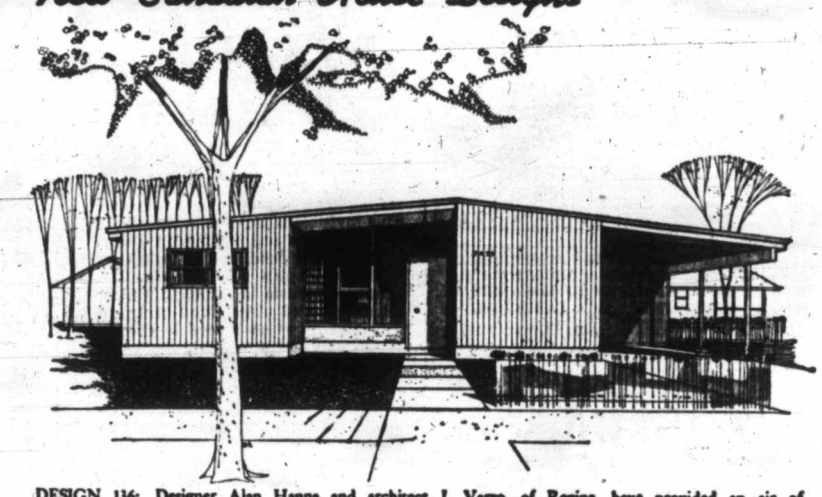
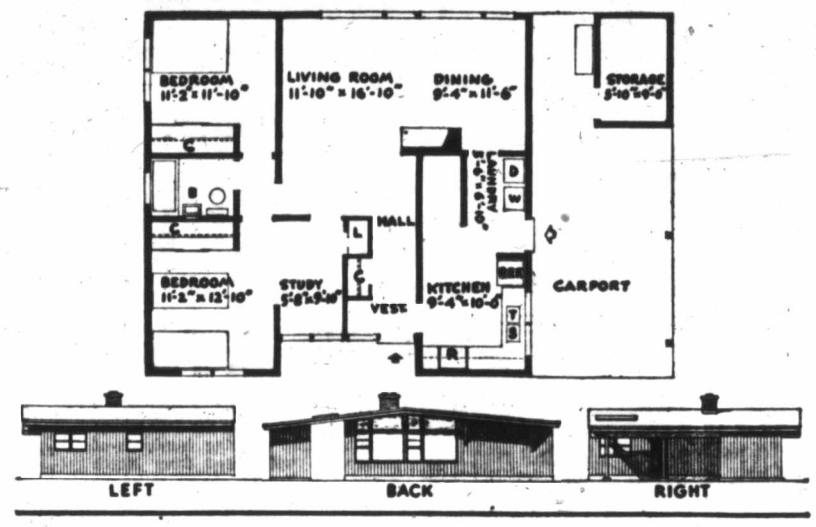
New Canadian House Designs



DESIGN 136: Designer Alan Hanna and architect J. Varro, of Regina, have provided an air of spaciousness in this basementless bungalow by allowing the ceilings to follow the roof slope. Total floor area of the house is 1,039 square feet and the exterior dimensions, including carport and storage, are 45 feet, six inches by 31 feet. Working drawings for this plan are available at minimum cost from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.



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Do-It-Yourself

Tiled Ceiling Lovely, Modern

By RALPH J. DALZELL

★ ★ ★

When plastered ceilings are so badly cracked that costly patching or replastering and redecorating is necessary, the home owner should consider one of the new patterned ceiling tile.

It is available in rich designs including brown flecks on white backgrounds, beige-colored, lace-like patterns on embossed white surfaces, and gold filigree on white. All designs complement any decorating scheme.

CUTS NOISE

The new tile reduces undesirable sounds, is easy to install, and creates an all-new ceiling that is beautiful and modern. These simple procedures can be followed to install 12x12-inch tile:

First, draw an outline of the ceiling as shown in picture 1. Measure the distance around the room and draw the outline to a scale of a ¼ inch to the foot. Measure the room length and width at each corner and at the centre to determine if the area is square. Use the longest dimension found.

TO BALANCE

For example, assume the dimensions in the picture. Width is eight feet, 10 inches, so eight full tiles and two five-inch pieces are needed in each row along this dimension. The 10-inch distance is divided so a five-inch piece can be installed at each end of the room to balance the appearance. The ceiling length is an even 10 feet, so 10 full tiles can be used for each row. Locate the centre (C) in the picture and draw the tile as shown.

Install one-inch furring strips on cracked plaster, so draw another sketch (picture 2) to indicate the positions of the furring strips, which must be directly under the joints for all rows of tile along the eight feet by 10-inch dimension.

MARK CENTRE POINT

Mark the centre point, C, on the ceiling and nail the first furring strip in place as shown in picture 2. Use three and a half-inch box nails, as shown in picture 3, to nail all furring strips to every ceiling joist.

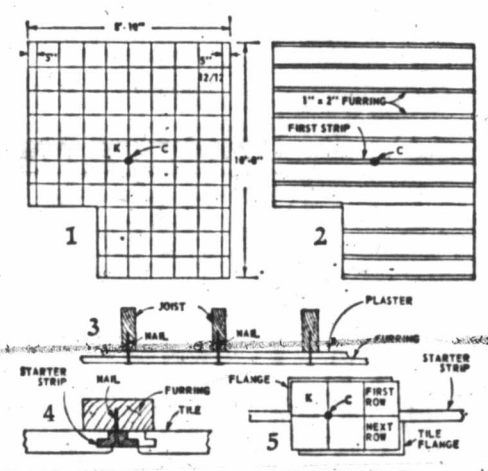
When all strips have been installed hold a straightedge against them to make sure all strips are at the same level. If one or more do not touch the straightedge, place thin wooden shims between them and the plaster.

One starter strip (available where tile is purchased) should be nailed to the furring strip that passes through point C (see picture 4.) This guides the first two rows of tile on both sides of centre point C.

Start applying the tile as shown in picture 5. Place the first piece (see K in pictures 1 and 5) so its groove engages the starter strip as shown in picture 4. Make sure the corner of the tile touches the furring strip above point C.

Install all of the first row along the eight-foot dimension. Install the next row (see picture 5) so the flanges on the tile lead in the opposite direction. Fasten tile corners with 1½-inch box nails or rent a staple shooter from your hardware store.

Saw the five-inch pieces to fit against the walls, allowing one-sixteenth inch for expansion, and continue installing other rows. Place a cove molding around the wall next to the tile.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—How should a wire fence be prepared for painting?

A—Use a stiff wire brush to remove vines, rust and dirt, then apply a rust-proof paint with a roller, in two coats.

Q — Do stains hide the natural beauty of wood?

A—No. The stains may be light or dark. Some stains produce a bleached effect.

Q—How can we make sure that patches, where cracks have been repaired, will not show through new paint on walls?

A—Sandpaper the area so it is flush with the surrounding plaster, and then apply an undercoat of paint. Be sure the undercoat is dry before applying the finish coat.

AIDED BOATS

The first lock at Bobcaygeon, Ont., now part of the Trent Valley canal system, was built in 1839.

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